

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 10-29 are pending in this application, and are rejected in the final Office Action of October 20, 2006.

Claims 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, and 26 are amended.

Re: Claims 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26

Claims 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 99/35847 (hereinafter, "Westlake"). Applicant respectfully disagrees because Westlake fails to teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention. First, Westlake fails to disclose or suggest that an electronic mail message includes an operating command for operating a TV system, which receives the electronic mail message. See, for example, FIG. 4. Thus, Westlake does not disclose or suggest the receiving step. Second, if the electronic mail message includes the first type of program identification information, the claimed invention allows a video processing apparatus to schedule an event without having to search program guide information. By contrast, the system disclosed in Westlake searches program guide information for any term in the electronic mail message that has a match in the program guide information. See the Abstract. As such, Westlake at best discloses that an electronic mail message includes only the second type of program identification information. It does not disclose or suggest that an electronic mail message includes the first type of program identification information. Therefore, Westlake also fails to disclose or suggest the step of processing said electronic mail message to determine whether an electronic mail message includes the first type of program identification information because it has no need to do so. As a result, Westlake also fails to disclose or suggest the step of scheduling an event related to a program identified by said program identification information if the electronic mail message includes the first type of program identification information.

However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution, applicant has amended independent claims 10, 17, and 24 to more particularly point out and distinct claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Amended claim 10, for example, recites a method for operating a video processing apparatus, comprising steps of:

receiving an electronic mail message remotely from a user, said electronic mail message comprising an operating command and program identification information including at least one of a first type of program identification information and a second type of program identification information;

processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information;

scheduling an event according to said operating command for a program identified by said program identification information without searching program guide information for said program if said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information;

processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information if said electronic mail message does not include said first type of program identification information;

searching said program guide information for said program using said program identification information if said electronic mail message includes said second type of program identification information; and

scheduling said event if said program is found during said searching step. (Emphasis added.)

Amended claim 10 more specifically points out that if the electronic mail message includes a first type of program information, the video processing apparatus schedules the event according to the operating command for a program identified by the program identification information without searching program guide information for the program. As discussed above, Westlake does not disclose or suggest that an electronic mail message includes such first type of program identification information because Westlake must always search program guide information for a program. Therefore, Westlake fails to disclose or suggest the step of processing said electronic mail message to determine whether an electronic mail message includes a first type of program identification information because there is no need to do so and the step of

scheduling an event according to said operating command for a program identified by said program identification information without searching program guide information for said program if said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information.

Furthermore, as pointed out earlier Westlake does not disclose or suggest that an electronic mail message includes an operating command. Thus, Westlake does not disclose or suggest the receiving step.

In light of the fact that Westlake fails to disclose or suggest the first three steps recited in amended claim 10, Westlake does not anticipate claim 10 and dependent claims 11 and 12.

Since independent claims 17 and 24 are similarly amended, Westlake does not anticipate claims 17 and 24, and their respective dependent claims 18-19 and 25-26 for similar reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11.

Re: Claims 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29

Claims 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westlake. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection since Westlake fails to teach or suggest all elements of claims 10, 17, and 24 from which those claims respectively depend. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29 be withdrawn.

Re: Claims 14, 16, 21, 23 and 28

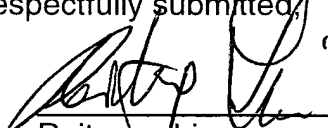
Claims 14, 16, 21, 23 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westlake in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,406 issued to Hirata (hereinafter, "Hirata"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection since Hirata is unable to remedy the deficiencies of Westlake pointed out above. In particular, Hirata fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the claimed elements of "receiving an electronic mail message remotely from a user, said electronic mail message comprising an operating command and program identification information including at least one of a first type of program identification information and a second type of program identification information;" "processing said electronic mail message to determine whether said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information;"

and "scheduling an event according to said operating command for a program identified by said program identification information without searching program guide information for said program if said electronic mail message includes said first type of program identification information." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 14, 16, 21, 23 and 28 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the foregoing remarks/arguments, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

2-12-07
Date

Karen Schleich